

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1100

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, SW

SUBJECT: IB AFFAIR CONTINUES

REF: STOCKHOLM A-423

SUMMARY: RIKSDAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE REPORT EXONERATES IB (SWEDEN'S EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY) OF IMPROPER CONDUCT, BUT POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE "IB AFFAIR" IS NOT ENDED. MODERATE PARTY DEMANDS ANOTHER INVESTIGATION OF ROYAL COMMISSION TYPE AND GOVERNMENT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM RIGHT AND LEFT, HAS VAGUELY COMMITTED ITSELF TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IB AFFAIR CONTINUES TO KEEP PALME GOVERNMENT ON DEFENSIVE AND THE END OF THIS POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE STORY IS NOT IN SIGHT.

2. LATEST EVENT WAS DEC. 4 PUBLICATION OF RIKSDAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE'S LONG AWAITED REPORT ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF IB. REPORT GENERALLY EXONERATED IB ORGANIZATION AND
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GOVERNMENT FROM CHARGES OF ILLEGAL OR IRREGULAR ACTIVITY

ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE DID DECLARE THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO MUCH SECRECY IN IB AND IT SHOULD BE UNDER FIRMER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

3. IN SURPRISE MOVE DEC. 4 MODERATE PARTY CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL JURIDICAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO CERTAIN AREAS OF IB AFFAIR NOT INVESTIGATED BY COMMITTEE, ESP. CLOSE TIES BETWEEN IB AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ALLEGED USE OF IB FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL PURPOSES BY SOCDEM PARTY. IN RESPONSE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO SOME KIND OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION BUT EXACT NATURE NOT YET CLEAR. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LEFT-WING PRESSURE, INCLUDING A PROTEST MEETING OF 5000, TO INCLUDE COMMUNIST PARTY IN ANY NEW COMMISSION, BUT THE FOUR OTHER RIKSDAG PARTIES ARE OPPOSED TO COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION ON GROUNDS THAT COMMUNISTS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO SENSITIVE SECURITY MATTERS. (BULK OF IB WORK HAS BEEN TARGETED ON COMMUNIST BLOC.)

4. COMMENT: THE AFFAIR SEEMS TO BE GETTING CLOSER TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC JUGULAR. MODERATE RIKSDAGSMAN ANDERS BJORCK TOLD EMBOFF THIS WEEK THAT HE DOES, IN FACT, HAVE SOLID EVIDENCE OF PARTISAN USE OF IB BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES AND SPECIFICALLY BY PALME. IF THIS IS TRUE, AND UNCONTROVERTIBLE FACTS COME OUT BEFORE SOME KIND OF RESPECTED COMMISSION OR TRIBUNAL, THEN PALME COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN LEGITIMATE INTERNAL SECURITY ACTIVITY AND DOMESTIC ESPIONAGE FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE, AND IB WAS NOT, BY ITS CHARTER, SUPPOSED TO BE ENGAGED IN EITHER. FULLER DETAILS OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM. OLSEN

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